

(TRANSLATION)
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

11 JAN 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference W1115-00	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA220) as well as, what applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/JP03/08793	International Filing date (day/month/year) 10.07.03	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 12.07.02
Applicant: ASAHI KASEI KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☒ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/08793

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ C08B3/00, C08L1/02, A23L2/62, 1/0534

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ C08B1/00-17/06, C08L1/00-1/32, A23L1/00-2/84

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
STN(CAPLUS, BIOSIS, MEDLINE EMBASE), JOIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 11-302448 A (ASAHI KASEI KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA), 20 November, 1999 (20.11.99), Claims 1, 3 (Family: none)	1-17
A	JP 11-209401 A (Bio-Polymer Research Co., Ltd.), 03 August, 1999 (03.08.99), Column 2, lines 46 to 48; column 4, lines 5 to 14 (Family: none)	1-17
A	EP 1036799 A1 (ASAHI KASEI KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA), 20 September, 2000 (20.09.00), Claims 1 to 9 & WO 99/28350 A1 Claims 1 to 9	1-17

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
06 October, 2003 (06.10.03)

Date of mailing of the international search report
21 October, 2003 (21.10.03)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/08793

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 9-124702 A (Nisshinbo Industries, Inc.), 13 May, 1997 (13.05.97), Claims 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1-17
A	WO 97/12917 A1 (RHONE-POULENC CHIMIE), 10 April, 1997 (10.04.97), Column 2, lines 9 to 12; Claim 1 & JP 11-513425 A Claim 1; page 5, lines 9 to 12	1-17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/08793

<Subject of search>

Claims 1 to 9 and 16 to 17 involve a great number of celluloses which are defined by the desired property "the loss tangent as a 0.5% by mass aqueous dispersion being less than 1". However, celluloses produced by a specific process (i.e., only part of the claimed celluloses) are exclusively disclosed by the description in the meaning as defined in PCT Article 5 and they are not supported in the meaning as described in PCT Article 6.

Since the parameter "the loss tangent as a 0.5% by mass aqueous dispersion being less than 1" has not been commonly employed in the art, the scope of celluloses specified by this parameter cannot be specified even though the common technical knowledge at the point of the application is taken into consideration. Thus, these claims do not comply with the requirement of clearness under PCT Article 6.

Such being the case, the search was made on the celluloses produced by the specific process specifically stated in the description.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

To:

11 JAN 2005

ASAMURA, Kiyoshi
Room 331, New Ohtemachi Bldg., 2-1, Ohtemachi
2-chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004
JAPON

Date of mailing (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference W1115-00		IMPORTANT NOTICE
International application No. PCT/JP2003/008793	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 July 2003 (10.07.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 July 2002 (12.07.2002)
Applicant ASAHI KASEI KABUSHIKI KAISHA et al		

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has **communicated**, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this notice:

AU, AZ, BY, CH, CN, CO, DE, DZ, EP, HU, KG, KR, MD, MK, MZ, RU, TM, US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, BA, BB, BG, BR, BZ, CA, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, EA, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MG, MN, MW, MX, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004) under No. WO 2004/007558

4. **TIME LIMITS for filing a demand for international preliminary examination and for entry into the national phase**

The applicable time limit for entering the national phase will, **subject to what is said in the following paragraph**, be **30 MONTHS** from the priority date, not only in respect of any elected Office if a demand for international preliminary examination is filed before the expiration of **19 months** from the priority date, but also in respect of any designated Office, in the absence of filing of such demand, where Article 22(1) as modified with effect from 1 April 2002 applies in respect of that designated Office. For further details, see *PCT Gazette* No. 44/2001 of 1 November 2001, pages 19926, 19932 and 19934, as well as the *PCT Newsletter*, October and November 2001 and February 2002 issues.

In practice, **time limits other than the 30-month time limit** will continue to apply, for various periods of time, in respect of certain designated or elected Offices. For **regular updates on the applicable time limits** (20, 21, 30 or 31 months, or other time limit), Office by Office, refer to the *PCT Gazette*, the *PCT Newsletter* and the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, all available from WIPO's Internet site, at <http://www.wipo.int/pci/en/index.html>.

For filing a **demand for international preliminary examination**, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Chapter IX. Only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination (at present, all PCT Contracting States are bound by Chapter II).

It is the applicant's **sole responsibility** to monitor all these time limits.

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

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